

ACA IMPLEMENTATION NEWS

UPDATING YOU ON PROGRESS AND AVAILABLE RESOURCES RELATED TO THE
AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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In This Issue!

In this issue of *ACA Implementation News*, we will provide links to the Department's updated ACA consumer resources, and a new ACA webinar co-hosted by HCPF and Division of Insurance. Also, we provide the latest enrollment update from Connect for Health Colorado and Medicaid.

As a reminder, please send us your ACA implementation questions/suggestions so we can provide timely and relevant information to you. Questions, comments and suggestions should be sent to ACAImplementation@hcpf.state.co.us for inclusion in upcoming issues of *ACA Implementation News*.

To sign up for *ACA Implementation News* or the Department's ACA Communication Updates, click [here](#).

You can also find us on [Facebook](#), Twitter [@COGovHealth](#) and [YouTube](#).

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News of Note

Collaborating to Cover More Coloradans

Connect for Health Colorado and Medicaid Enrollment Update

January 2, 2014

Between October 1 and December 31, more than 138,000 Coloradans have signed up or been approved for health coverage that takes effect January 1, 2014, according to data released today from Connect for Health Colorado and the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing.

The first half of the open enrollment period saw a strong increase in the pace of enrollments as the December deadline approached for customers seeking health insurance coverage on January 1st of 2014. Connect for Health Colorado, working in partnership with the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, extended the deadline from December 15th to December 27th to accommodate as many additional customers as possible.

The enrollment period for private health insurance continues until March 2014, with customers currently enrolling in plans with coverage starting February 1st.

Continued...

ACA Consumer Resources Updated

The Department has updated its ACA Consumer Resources in English found on the ACA Partner Resources page to reflect new messaging. Please use these updated materials when communicating with applicants. Some of the updated materials include:

- [HCPF and Connect for Health Colorado Side by Side](#)
- [Are You Ready Medicaid Poster](#)
- [HCPF and Connect for Health Colorado Poster](#)
- [Medicaid & Child Health Plan Plus \(CHP+\) Incomes Handout](#)
- [Medicaid Coverage Brochure](#)
- [Parent Handout](#)

You can find the rest of the materials on Colorado.gov/HCPF/ACAResources

ACA Webinar Hosted by HCPF and DOI

Executive Director Birch and Insurance Commissioner Salazar recorded a joint webinar overview of implementation of the ACA in Colorado. This recording is less than 20 minutes and can help give you information about the changes to both the public and private insurance market in Colorado.

We encourage you to share this webinar with your clients, family and friends.

You can view the webinar on Colorado.gov/Health or by [clicking here](#).



*Improving health care access and outcomes for the people we serve
while demonstrating sound stewardship of financial resources.
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...Continued Connect for Health Colorado and Medicaid Enrollment Update

“We made significant progress in the past three months as more than 52,000 Coloradans purchased private health insurance through our marketplace, many getting coverage for the first time in years,” said Patty Fontneau, CEO of Connect for Health Colorado. “As the second half of the enrollment period gets underway, we are already hard at work reaching out to Coloradans statewide.”

The enrollment numbers for Connect for Health Colorado exceeded their own early conservative projections of approximately 37,000 enrollments by the December deadline by 16,000 additional lives covered.

The Medicaid expansion numbers announced today reflect individuals actually enrolled in the program. Since Medicaid eligibility is determined on a monthly basis, the prior numbers reflected estimates of eligibility at a point in time. Medicaid enrollments can and do change as individuals income or personal circumstances change. Colorado Medicaid refers individuals who are over income for Medicaid directly to Connect for Health Colorado as these individuals could benefit from an advance premium tax credit or other financial assistance offered through the marketplace.

“The enrollments in Medicaid and Connect for Health Colorado show that Coloradans are becoming more aware of the importance of having health insurance coverage,” said Susan Birch, Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing. “Whether Coloradans have health insurance coverage through private insurance or through Medicaid, health coverage is the first step to better health. We will continue to work closely with our partners to ensure that Coloradans are connected with the coverage that is right for them.”

Open enrollment for Connect for Health Colorado continues until March 31, 2014. The deadline to sign up for February 1, 2014, coverage is January 15, 2014. Medicaid does not have an open enrollment period.

Through state laws, Connect for Health Colorado was established as a non-profit entity with a Colorado mission. In addition, Colorado is expanding eligibility for Medicaid. Private health insurance purchased through Connect for Health Colorado’s competitive marketplace and the expanded eligibility for Medicaid both take effect starting January 1, 2014. Enhanced federal funding that is available starting January 1, 2014 will support the Medicaid expansion.

For metrics information about Medicaid click [here](#) and more metrics information about Connect for Health Colorado is click [here](#).

To view the full joint press release click [here](#).



Resources

Resources for Brokers and Agents

The Department has developed resources for Agents and Brokers, including a [webinar](#) and [slides](#) on PEAK. The webinar also covers how to increase the likelihood an applicant may receive a real time determination. You can view these new resources at Colorado.gov/HCPF/ACAResources.

Medicaid Benefits Starting 2014

Important information has been released about the Medicaid benefits for 2014. This [fact sheet](#) provides an overview of the benefits for current and newly eligible Medicaid clients beginning January 2014. You can also find this information on Colorado.gov/HCPF/ACAResources.

ACA Resources for Health Care Providers

The Department's [ACA Resources for Health Care Providers](#) page is designed to provide all health care providers key information about health care reform. You can view the resources at Colorado.gov/HCPF/ProviderACAInfo.

PEAK Training Opportunities

The PEAK Outreach team has recorded numerous trainings on the PEAK application. We strongly encourage all individuals who work directly with clients on the application process view these helpful webinars. Webinar trainings for eligibility workers can be found [here](#) and trainings for community organizations can be found [here](#).

Reminders

PEAK Instructions

Step-by-step instructions for the new PEAK features available to current Medical Assistance clients can be found under the PEAK Resources heading on Colorado.gov/HCPF/ACAResources.

Recent Client Letter

Some current Medicaid clients may have recently received a letter requesting proof of "reasonable compatibility." The Department is sending a clarification letter to those clients. If clients have questions regarding this correspondence please have them contact their [local county office](#).

Long Term Care Training

As a reminder, the Long Term Care training slides and webinar are posted in the Staff Development Center [Document Library](#) for eligibility workers. Additionally, [June 2013 Non-MAGI training](#) is posted on the Colorado.gov/HCPF under Training Events. We encourage all eligibility workers to review these training materials.

Checking a Medical Assistance Application Status

Coloradans can check the status of their Medical Assistance Application by calling: 1-800-359-1991, Hours of operation: 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Monday – Friday (closed state holidays). Applicants will need to provide their Application Tracking Number when calling.